Students Particular About Jobs
As War Brings Wider Selection

Placement Director of Brooklyn College
Notes Greater Demand From Employers,
Higher Wages and Call for Scientific Skills

The employment situation for Brooklyn College students has been completely reversed since January, 1943, Mrs. Barbara K. O’Neil, placement director, revealed yesterday.

"Last year our job was to sell our students to employers. This year we have often had to persuade students to look into the open years of what seemed to us promising opportunities," she said. This fact is reflected in figures that show that in order to fill approximately the same number of positions last term as during the comparable period the previous year, it was necessary to reach 760 more persons and to send out 659 more candidates.

"The increase of 25 per cent in the number of references written in answer to requests covering students and graduates is another indication of the decided pick-up in civilian employment," Mrs. O’Neil maintained, "and it is all the more striking when seen in the light of the numbers who are now in the armed forces and hence out of the labor market."

Scientific Training Needed

The Brooklyn College director pointed out that the most pressing need now is for graduates trained in the sciences, mathematics, statistics and economics, but even students with the most academic backgrounds can be used in war jobs that require definite supervisory responsibility.

But there were so many cases for women chemists that the Placement Office was unable to fill, it was decided to conduct a survey of all women trained in this field at the college during the last ten years to determine how many of them were eligible for war jobs. Of the 157 women interviewed, only thirty were available for employment.

Mrs. O’Neil said there has been a decided change in the type of employment that students now will take. At one time evening session students would accept "anything at all" just to continue school, but now salary and opportunities for advancement are weighed very carefully before jobs are accepted.

"As far as Summer jobs are concerned, many in the last were in positions paying $2.75 for nine and one-half to ten hours a day, but this year we could post a call for such an opening and get no response at all," she reported.

Farm Jobs Being Taken

"This semester, in particular, students are signing up for farm jobs. The patriotic motive is strong here even though the money returns are comparatively small. Moreover, the Brooklyn College plan whereby students can combine Summer school with farm service is a definite help in the war-time need for acceleration."

Opportunities for part-time work for undergraduates also have been increased. Applications for N. Y. A. dropped from 594 in the Fall of 1941 to 326 in the Fall of 1942.

Although the employment office place approximately the same number of day session students this year as it did the year before, it is estimated that more men and women have Thursday night and Saturday sales jobs.

Mrs. O’Neil announced that since last October senior women have been invited to make appointments with the placement advisor to talk over the type of jobs for which they might be qualified. "Almost half of the total number responded, and many dropped in several times subsequently to report progress in their job hunts," she said.

The placement director has contributed a weekly column to the college newspaper, Vanguard, which has served to give undergraduates an over-all picture of current job opportunities.

Sunday Commencement
At Brooklyn College

Commencement exercises will be held on the Brooklyn College quadrangle at 5 P. M. on Sunday, June 20, President Harry D. Gideon announced yesterday.

This will be the first Salutatorian Commencement Program in the history of the college. It will permit greater attendance of friends of graduates than previous week-end programs.